AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand, characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively 2 equivalents of an inorganic or metal-organic base, wherein

$$Y{=}N{-}R \qquad \text{as formula 1,}$$

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, nitrogen, or phosphorous atom and R represents a proton, a protic or an aprotic substitutent, and:

$$M^{V}(L_1)_k(L_2)_l(L_3)_m(L_4)_nX \qquad \text{as formula 2,}$$

wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

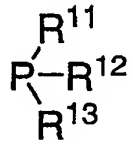
L_1, L_2, L_3, and L_4 represent a ligands on M and may be equal or different

X represents a group 17-halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V.

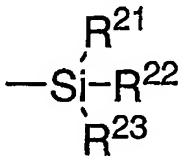
2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein R represents a hydrogen atom and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of

i) a phosphorus substituent defined by the formula:



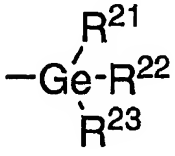
(formula 3)

wherein each R^{1j}, with j = 1-3 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-8} alkoxy radical, a C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radical, an amido radical, or a C_{1-20} hydrocarbyl radical unsubstituted or substituted by a halogen atom, a C_{1-8} alkoxy radical, a C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radical, an amido radical, a silyl radical of the formula:



(formula 4)

or a germanyl radical of the formula:

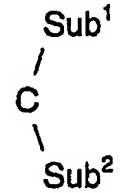


(formula 5)

wherein R^{2j} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a C_{1-8} alkyl or alkoxy radical, C_{6-10} aryl or aryloxy radicals,

each substituent R^{1j} or R^{2j} may be linked with another R^1 or R^2 to form a ring system,

ii) a substituent defined by formula 6:



(formula 6)

wherein each of Sub^1 and Sub^2 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms; silyl radicals, (substituted) amido radicals and (substituted) phosphido radicals, and wherein Sub^1 and Sub^2 may be linked with each other to form a ring system.

3. (currently amended) A process according to ~~claim 1-2~~ claim 1, wherein the inorganic base is a carboxylate, a fluoride, a hydroxide, a cyanide, an amide, a carbonate of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, or an ammonium salt or a group 2 metal salt chosen from Mg, Ca, or Ba thereof, an alkali metal chosen from Li, Na, K, Rb, or Cs of phosphate or a phosphate ester and related aryl and alkyl compounds) or their alkoxide and phenoxides, thallium hydroxide, alkylammonium hydroxides or fluorides, a hydrocarbanion of group 1, group 2, group 12 or group 13 elements, or alkali metals, group 1 hydrides or group 2 hydrides or carbonates of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs.

4. (original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the inorganic base is selected from sodium hydride, or calciumhydride.

5. (currently amended) A process according to ~~claim 1-2~~ claim 1, wherein the metal-organic base is selected from organolithium compounds, or organomagnesium compounds,.

6. (currently amended) A process according to ~~claim 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in an aprotic solvent.

7. (currently amended) A process according to ~~claim 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein the process is carried out in the presence of a phase transfer reagent.

8. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of a polyolefin by making a metal-organic compound according to the process of ~~claims 1-7~~ claim 1, wherein the

base is an olefin polymerisation compatible base, which metal-organic compound is activated anywhere in, or before a polymerisation reactor.

9. (original) Process according to claim 8, wherein the metal-organic compound is formed used without purification.

10. (currently amended) Process according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein the metal-organic compound is formed in the polymerisation equipment.